

Approved: 2/3/97
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael R. O'Neal at 3:30 p.m. on January 21, 1997 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Representative John Ballou - excused
Representative Sue Storm - excused

Committee staff present:
Ben Barrett, Director, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Cindy Wulfkuhle, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Nancy McRoberts - Teacher of the Year - Olathe North High School, Olathe USD 233
Karen Pinkall - Teacher of the Year Finalists - Rural Center Elementary School, Chapman USD 473
Sharon Stephens - Teacher of the Year Finalist - Emporia High School, Emporia USD 253
Melanie Campbell - Teacher of the Year Finalist - West Indianola Elementary School, Seaman USD 345
Penny Wika - Teacher of the Year Finalist - Manhattan High School, Manhattan USD 383
Kay Barkis - Teacher of the Year Finalist - Louisburg Elementary/Middle School, Louisburg USD 416
Marilyn Brothers - Teacher of the Year Finalist - Benton Elementary School, Circle USD 375
Judy Beemer - Teacher of the Year Finalist - Arkansas City High School, Arkansas City USD 470

Others attending: See attached list

The committee heard from guest speaker's: Kansas Teacher of the Year and the Finalists.

Nancy McRoberts, Teacher of the Year, Olathe North High School, Olathe USD 233, has taught for 16 years. She teaches parenting skills classes to sophomores and juniors and works with 17 teenage girls that are pregnant. Her mission is to keep the expecting mothers in school to help them reach their dream to graduate with the rest of their peers.

Kay Barkis, Louisburg Elementary/Middle School, Louisburg USD 416, teaches kindergarten and believes that teaching is a study of human nature. She stated that reading to children helps them improve in school.

Judy Beemer, Arkansas City High School, Arkansas City USD 470, teaches high school English. Her day is divided between two classes, low level reading and college bound seniors. Her focus is to promote reading, even beyond school.

Marilyn Brothers, Benton Elementary School, Circle USD 375, teaches third grade. She tries to teach kids to be accountable to themselves. She tries to get parents involved in their child's school. If a child is not reading by third grade then they could be at risk.

Sharon Stephens, Emporia High School, Emporia USD 253, has taught 30 years. She currently teaches high school English. Her grandparents were non-English speaking and she believes that it has helped her relate to those students in Emporia that have trouble with English.

Melanie Campbell, West Indianola Elementary School, Seaman USD 345, teaches fourth grade. She has a child in each of the three levels of the educational process. She constantly keeps her children in her mind as she teaches her classes. She wants her classroom environment to be an environment she would want her children to be taught in. She also thinks about the interaction between child and teacher and the content of what is taught and if it is challenging enough.

Penny Wika, Manhattan High School, Manhattan USD 383, teaches journalism in high school. Her class publishes a newspaper every Friday. She teaches them to meet deadlines, be clear, accurate and precise.

Karen Pinkall, Rural Center Elementary School, Chapman USD 473, teaches first, second & third grade. Because she is from a small community, she knows all the parents. Even though enrollment is small the school offers quality education.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 519-S Statehouse, at 3:30 p.m. on January 21, 1997.

The committee was interested in the difference between children when they started and how they behave today. All the teachers agreed that children who now enter the educational system today have a wider variation of what they come prepared with. Today there are children who have parents who both work, and some that have a single parent who works. Those parents get very little time to spend with the child. There is not much verbal exchange. There is a language deficit with kindergartners. Language is how children grasp concepts and ideas. There are also those parents where both have college degrees and the mother stays at home and spends more time with the children and therefore are sometimes more prepared. Teenagers today are much more intense and have more pressure to deal with.

The teachers believe that new teachers receive more training when dealing with at-risk children, whereas, they had to learn on their own how to identify and work with them. A committee member requested that they provide the committee with the definition of at-risk.

They talked about how Quality Performance Accreditation was working in their schools because it has made teachers work in "teams" and it's the "teams" that help prepare kids for the future.

A member of the committee asked what the legislature needed to do to help in the area of education. A teacher responded that class sizes need to be kept down to a small number of students. Another teacher responded that funding all areas of school was important but especially special education. Another teacher replied that mandating improvements and let them decide how to do the improvements would be helpful.

The teacher's discussed the issue of tenure. They said that because of QPA they tend to work together and stronger teachers help weaker teachers. However, one teacher commented that there are some teachers that are not effective and it troubles her that these teachers get the same pay as those that are more effective. It's the administrators job to evaluate teachers and determine who is doing a good job.

The committee meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 1996.

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 21, 1997

NAME	REPRESENTING
Nancy McRoberts	KS Teacher of the Year - Olathe
Kay Barkis	Louisburg U.S.D. #416 KTOY
Judy Bemer	Arkansas City - USD #470 KTOY
Marilyn Brothers	Circle USD #375 KTOY
Marion Stephens	Emporia USD #253 KTOY
Melanie Campbell	Jesman USD #345 KTOY
Penny Wika	Manhattan USD 383 KTOY
Karen Pinkall	Chapman USD #473 KTOY
Chris Wilson	Chapman USD #473 - El. Prin.
Janelle Alhertson	Dept. of Education
Kate Hutchinson	Intern
Calvi R. Hill	" "
Don Reza	USD 321
Jacque Oakes	SQE
Danielle He	Gov Office
Bob Vanceum	USD 229
Jim Edwards	KCCI
Ken Bahr	Assn of Community Colleges
Scott Hill	KS BOE

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: _____

NAME	REPRESENTING
WANDA MORRISON	KS Bd of Educ.
Dale Morris	KS Dept of Ed.
Andy Tompkins	KSDE
Gerald Henderson	USA of KS
Katie Sparks	DOB
Ben Chase	KNEA